

Serial No. 09/539,691  
September 9, 2003  
Response to Office Action of March 12, 2003  
Page 2

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-18: (canceled)

20

Rule 126  
Claim 18<sup>20</sup>(new): A method for processing a ceramic green sheet to form a plurality of through holes in the ceramic green sheet, comprising the steps of:

- 1
- (a) disposing a laser source for emitting a pulsed laser beam, a diffraction grating for splitting the laser beam into a plurality of laser beam components in the vicinity of the laser source, a galvano-scan mirror that reflects the laser beam components at a reflection angle, a converging lens that individually converges the laser beam components reflected by the galvano-scan mirror, and the ceramic green sheet, in a predetermined positional relationship;
  - (b) splitting the pulsed laser beam emitted from the laser source through the diffraction grating into the plurality of laser beam components;
  - (c) reflecting the plurality of laser beam components with the galvano-scan mirror toward the ceramic green sheet such that a plurality of through holes is simultaneously formed at predetermined locations of the ceramic green sheet;
  - (d) varying the reflection angle of the galvano-scan mirror to repeat said step (c) until the through holes are formed in an entire region that can be processed by such a variation of the reflection angle in the ceramic green sheet;
  - (e) shifting the ceramic green sheet by a predetermined distance and repeating said steps (c) and (d); and
  - (f) repeating said step (e) until the through holes are formed at all predetermined locations of the ceramic green sheet.
- 3) f

21

(8) Claim 20<sup>21</sup>(new): The method according to Claim 18<sup>20</sup>, wherein the diffraction grating comprises a material having a high laser beam transmittance.

Serial No. 09/539,691  
September 9, 2003  
Response to Office Action of March 12, 2003  
Page 3

(<sup>22</sup><sub>11</sub>) Claim <sup>22</sup>~~21~~ (new): The method according to Claim <sup>20</sup>~~19~~, wherein the laser beam is a CO<sub>2</sub> laser beam.

(<sup>23</sup><sub>12</sub>) Claim <sup>23</sup>~~22~~ (new): The method according to Claim <sup>20</sup>~~19~~, wherein the ceramic green sheet is provided with a carrier film on one surface thereof.

Claim <sup>24</sup>~~23~~ (new): The method according to Claim <sup>20</sup>~~19~~, wherein each of the plurality of through holes has substantially the same shape and size.

(<sup>25</sup><sub>13</sub>) Claim <sup>25</sup>~~24~~ (new): A method for processing a ceramic green sheet, comprising:  
(a) disposing a laser source for emitting a pulsed laser beam, a diffraction grating provided in the vicinity of the laser source for splitting the laser beam into a plurality of laser beam components that have energy suitable for forming fine holes having a diameter of about 50  $\mu$ m or less on the ceramic green sheet, a galvano-scan mirror that reflects the laser beam components at a reflection angle, a converging lens that individually converges the laser beam components reflected by the galvano-scan mirror and the ceramic green sheet, in a predetermined positional relationship;  
(b) splitting the pulsed laser beam emitted from the laser source through the diffraction grating into the plurality of laser beam components;  
(c) reflecting the plurality of laser beam components with the galvano-scan mirror toward the ceramic green sheet such that a plurality of fine holes having a diameter of about 50  $\mu$ m or less is simultaneously formed at predetermined locations of the ceramic green sheet;  
(d) varying the reflection angle of the galvano-scan mirror to repeat said step (c) until the fine holes are formed in an entire region that can be processed by such a variation of the reflection angle in the ceramic green sheet;  
(e) shifting the ceramic green sheet by a predetermined distance and repeating said steps (c) and (d); and

Serial No. 09/539,691  
September 9, 2003  
Response to Office Action of March 12, 2003  
Page 4

(f) repeating said step (e) until the fine holes having a diameter of 50  $\mu\text{m}$  or less are formed at all predetermined locations of the ceramic green sheet.

<sup>24</sup>  
10) Claim ~~25~~<sup>24</sup> (new): The method according to Claim ~~24~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the diffraction grating comprises a material having a high laser beam transmittance.

<sup>27</sup>  
(11) Claim ~~26~~<sup>27</sup> (new): The method according to Claim ~~24~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the laser beam is a CO<sub>2</sub> laser beam.

<sup>28</sup>  
12) Claim ~~27~~<sup>28</sup> (new): The method according to Claim ~~24~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the ceramic green sheet is provided with a carrier film on one surface thereof.

<sup>29</sup>  
13) Claim ~~28~~<sup>29</sup> (new): A method for processing a ceramic green sheet to form a plurality of through holes in the ceramic green sheet, comprising the steps of:

(a) disposing a laser source for emitting a pulsed laser beam, a diffraction grating for splitting the laser beam into a plurality of laser beam components in the vicinity of the laser source, a galvano-scan mirror that reflects the laser beam components at a reflection angle, a converging lens that individually converges the laser beam components reflected by the galvano-scan mirror, and the ceramic green sheet, in a predetermined positional relationship;

(b) splitting the pulsed laser beam emitted from the laser source through the diffraction grating into the plurality of laser beam components;

(c) reflecting the plurality of laser beam components by the galvano-scan mirror toward the ceramic green sheet so that a plurality of through holes is simultaneously formed at predetermined locations of the ceramic green sheet;

(d) varying the reflection angle of the galvano-scan mirror to repeat said step (c) until the through holes are formed in the entire region that can be processed by such a variation of the reflection angle in the ceramic green sheet;

Serial No. 09/539,691  
September 9, 2003  
Response to Office Action of March 12, 2003  
Page 5

(e) shifting the ceramic green sheet by a predetermined distance and repeating said steps (c) and (d); and

(f) repeating said step (e) until the through holes are formed at all predetermined locations of the ceramic green sheet;

wherein the ceramic green sheet is provided with a carrier film on one surface thereof;

wherein the plurality of laser beam components has an energy that allows each of the plurality of laser beam components to penetrate through the ceramic green sheet but not to penetrate through the carrier film.

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Claim 29 (new): The method according to Claim 28, wherein the diffraction grating comprises a material having a high laser beam transmittance.

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Claim 30 (new): The method according to Claim 28, wherein the laser beam is a CO<sub>2</sub> laser beam.

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Claim 31 (new): The method according to Claim 28, wherein each of the plurality of through holes has substantially the same shape and size.

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